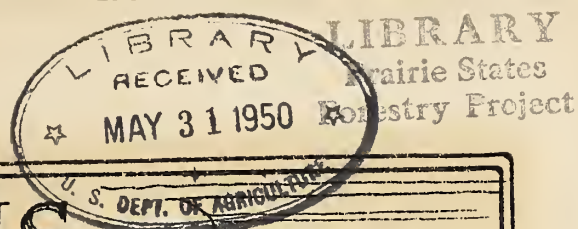


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PLANNING

Some doubt is expressed from time to time concerning the need for or value of work plans. I have heard the need for plans questioned purely on the premise that more time is required to maintain them than is saved through their application. Of course if work plan procedure is made so difficult and involved as to detract from the objective of plans, I heartily agree with the doubters! But I am inclined to believe--at least I want to believe, that unfamiliarity with plans, their generally formidable appearance at first sight, probably the sincere belief that plans and schedules belong to the manufacturing plant--never to the Forest Service, that plans are unnecessary for work the details of which are well known, and other reasons in the same general category all combine to cause this attitude.

Some one once said that the activities of war divide themselves into two principal classes (1) preparation for war and (2) the war itself. I would not be so much concerned with "the war itself," because I believe, as I have always believed, that in the Forest Service we have soldiers of high courage, character, and patriotism sufficient to meet and beat the enemy, if given proper preparation. We have plenty of assailants in the form of employment ratios, scant appropriations, drought, rodents, the vicissitudes of weather, and what not, and rolled into one, they constitute a formidable foe whom we should be prepared to meet.

Whether for war or work we need a plan of campaign. In either case it is essential to determine and define our objectives, decide upon the things necessary to be done or activities to be engaged in, and to set them down on paper, primarily for the use and benefit of the individual who is to carry on the campaign. Isn't it essential that he constantly know exactly what he is to do, what men, money and materials he has available, and then arrange them into logical working units according to the part each is to play in bringing about the desired end? And to check on the effectiveness of his supervision and to determine fairly the amount and quality of work which he should expect from any individual or group of individuals, shouldn't he have a goal--a standard against which he will check actual accomplishments? If you agree, then you agree that work plans play an important part in the realization of the objectives and aims of your work.

Given the good soldiers that we have, if we prepare well for this "war" of ours, won't we be in position to say, "We have met the enemy and they are ours"? I think so.

- Wm. B. Ihlanfeldt, R.O.

## THE RELATION OF TREES TO THE SOIL

(Excerpt from Report of the Geologist, Erwin Hinckley Barbour, in the Annual Report of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture, 1894).

Thousands of farms are without trees of any kind, either shade trees or fruit trees. This state of affairs is entirely wrong, and doubtless will be corrected when the state grows older, and when a more stable and permanent class of citizens occupies the farming lands.

Possibly, as many claim, the land is impoverished for a certain distance around growing trees, but this is fully compensated for by the shade they give, the moisture which their leaves give off to evaporation, the extra amount of rain which their roots help to arrest, and the protection to flocks and crops by breaking or mitigating somewhat the force of the wind.

Immediately after the memorable Thursday, July 26, 1894, when a blast hot as from a furnace blew continually from the south across the state, withering everything in its path, the author crossed the state twice; once diagonally from Sioux county to Lincoln; again due west across the state. In a single day this hot wind had so dried up and parched the crops that they stood in the fields yellow and burned. Twelve hours before, hopes for good crops were bright. Had there been surface water for evaporation or occasional patches of timber to cool and restrain somewhat the fury of this blast, and to help tide the state over that one withering day, some of these hopes and promises of a fair yield might have been realized. But, as it was, the failure entailed widespread suffering and adversity. However, it was carefully noticed that every large windbreak was bordered with cornfields which were still green for a distance of three to five hundred yards. Beyond this not a green stalk was to be seen. Whether the inference was correctly drawn or not, the author attributed this to the slight protection offered by the windbreaks, and could not but feel more than ever the vital importance of tree planting. If scattered windbreaks offer even slight protection, what might not be expected of scattered forests. There is the most intimate relation existing between our soils and the storage of water and the planting of trees. Some soils are poor and unproductive naturally; some are made so by exhaustive cultivation; some, though naturally abounding in fertility, are in such a condition physically that their richness is not available for plant food; some, by their geographical position, are rendered sterile; some soils, such as our own, are rendered less remunerative, not because of any lack of natural fertility, but because the fertility stored in our soils is rendered to a greater degree unavailable for plant nutrition because of the semi-arid conditions which prevail over the western portion of the state. Nature has fertilized our soils liberally. The enrichment which they now need is not to come so much from manures, guano, phosphate, and bone dust as from irrigation, from the storage of water, and the planting of trees.

## A NEW KIND OF "MULTIPLE USE"

We who are engaged in controlling rabbits and other rodents on shelter-belt strips have always appreciated the cooperation which we have received since the inauguration of the Project in April 1935. In 1935 this cooperation was good, in 1936 it was better, and in 1937 it was excellent.



During early December (1937) Forest Service Officers of the South Dakota Unit used every effort to create interest in rodent control work among the cooperators. In addition to distributing poison bait and demonstrating its use and value, much effort was put forth to interest these cooperators and others in community rabbit drives and hunts. As a result of this dual purpose campaign, the district offices have been busy with requests for open dates and trucks for transportation to assist local communities in staging cooperative hunts and drives. These rabbit hunts have proved an effective and very economical means of controlling this destructive pest.

Our South Dakota strips have better protection from rabbits this year than during any year since the Project started. Very little damage is apparent in strips or nurseries to date and it is believed that the percentage of trees lost due to rodent damage will be small this winter. We finally are ahead of the rabbits and with a continuation of this splendid cooperation we believe we can keep ahead of them.

During December and January a total of 44 community rabbit drives and hunts have been conducted by the local communities in South Dakota in cooperation with the Forest Service. In the month of January alone 38 hunts or drives have been staged. From 80 to 100 people usually participate in a hunt and the area covered usually is four square miles. Records show that to date 13,604 rabbits have been killed during the 44 hunts, which averages better than 300 rabbits per hunt.

At least one Forest Service Officer has been present on most occasions during part of the time each hunt is in progress, usually during lunch time at noon. During the noon rest period for lunch the Forest Officer talks about trees and the benefits to be derived from our Project. Since many non-cooperators attend these hunts it affords a wonderful opportunity for new contacts. Lund reports that he has received more than 200 new applications to date as the direct result of these rabbit hunts. This is going to be a great help in future land negotiation work and is "clear velvet."

All proceeds from rabbits taken on these drives go to the sponsoring organization. They are sold on bid to local fur buyers and have been bringing from 9 to 11 cents each. These proceeds are used by the sponsoring organizations in many interesting and worth-while ways. One Farm Union local has supplied its township with \$100 worth of fire-fighting equipment. A high school has furnished its basket-ball team with uniforms. A 4-H Club has been supplied with sufficient funds to send its members to a summer recreation camp. One small-town commercial club has added \$200 to its bank account. Various organizations, including Red Cross Chapters, Service Clubs, District schools, Parent-Teacher Associations, American Legion Posts, rural churches and brotherhoods, have used their proceeds for purposes ranging all the way from charity to social gatherings.

We call this cooperation. We are getting a necessary job of rabbit control done and at the same time we are making friends with organizations and individuals in a way that is steadily and noticeably furthering support of the Project in this State.

- B. O. Wichmann, U.S.B.S., S.Dak.

#### NEBRASKA NURSERYMAN LOOKS AT CALIFORNIA

Nurseryman and Mrs. Carl Taylor who have returned from a five-weeks' trip to California and other southern and western points report a very profitable and enjoyable trip. Carl spent considerable time investigating methods used by the Los Angeles County Forestry Department in establishing conifers on the Los Angeles watershed. He reports on the high lights of his trip as follows:

"Among the numerous observations made during a recent visit to Southern California, it seemed to me that the Southern Californian's enthusiasm for his locality is not so much ballyhoo as a justifiable pride in accomplishment against natural odds.

"As you drive past miles of brilliantly green fields of lettuce, celery, and other intensive crops in a land occupied for centuries by sagebrush and cacti, it all looks beautiful and easy. But back of it all is an immense outlay of money, labor, and ingenuity to bring the necessary water for hundreds of miles through mountains and over other deserts. I couldn't help but think of the farmers and gardeners here in the Platte River Valley literally on top of a vast reservoir of water, but meeting crop failures time after time because it doesn't rain at the right times.

"The Southern Californian's appreciation of forestry as an aid to agriculture is both extensive and intensive. Citrus groves in the broader valleys where the wind can blow are located in a grid of windbreaks planted by private initiative on land worth \$1,000 per acre and upwards. Towns at the bases of the mountains have their vigilantes to assist in prevention and control of fires in the mountains, for they have found that although there are no forests in the ordinary sense, the dense chaparral serves to hold the slopes. That floods follow fire they have learned through grim experience.

"Compared with the difficulties of reforestation on the arid mountain slopes of that area, our job of getting good survival of shelterbelt plantings at a reasonable cost is just "duck soup." In that area where the total annual rainfall of 12" to 18" occurs during the four winter months, plantings of bare-rooted stock produce a survival of practically zero. Yet I saw numerous plantings of pines and other trees which had been nursery-grown in pots or other containers to permit transplanting without disturbing the feeding roots, and watered the first season or two by hauling and carrying water over the rocky slides, which had established themselves and were making fine growth. Some of the pine plantations seven to ten years old were 12 to 20 feet tall.

"So when the black blizzards roar and the grasshoppers start on the march, take time off to go see what has been accomplished in a land where the problem is really tough."

#### NO GALLOWS

Editor, News-Herald: I read your article in the Sunday News-Herald about Freeman Corp with a great deal of interest until I came to the point where the mob in Grant County backed a wagon up to a tree on which to hang Mr. Corp. Right there I lost interest, as I had been over most of Grant County in April, 1886, and if there were any trees in that county big enough to hang your hat on, I failed to locate them. - Hugh Glenn, Leoti, a resident of Western Kansas since 1871.

- Hutchinson (Kansas) News-Herald.



## NATIVE TIMBER OF THE PLAINS

(Extracts from Thesis "A Study of Afforestation in the Great Plains Region from Its Early Settlement to the Present Time," by F. E. Cobb in 1925.)

Kellogg (1905) states that in the early days sawmills operated along the North Platte River in western Nebraska and cut yellow pine up to four feet in diameter for building and bridge purposes, much being wasted even in those sparse forests.

Eggleston (1884) in his Report on Forestry records data received from many states as to the disappearance of trees and the use to which they were being put. On the eastern slopes of the mountains bordering the Plains in Colorado the slopes were being stripped of timber for the mines, smelters, and mining towns; but fires were being kept down despite many that were set by the Indians. In western Kansas much timber, such as it was, was being destroyed by prairie fires and grazing stock as well as being cut for fuel. Through the central part of the State in the Arkansas Valley the timber in many places had all been cut for fuel and the people generally did not understand what care was necessary to keep the supply permanent. In this section green ash, red cedar, boxelder, elm, cherry, cottonwood, hackberry, black walnut, and willows were important trees. In Dakota Territory reports from the northern part were received from the counties of Benson, Morton and LaMoure. These were to the effect that all the timber that was originally along the lakes and streams, consisting of cottonwood, boxelder, green ash, willow, and bur oak was fast being cut for fuel, but that where prairie fires were prevented new growths were coming up again.

In addition to the western extension of settlement which resulted in large quantities of fuel being continually cut along the wagon trails to the west, the building of the railroads after the Civil War used immense quantities for fuel, ties, bridges, and telegraph poles to say nothing of the numbers felled for log cabins. This applied to the later northern transcontinental lines as well as to those through Nebraska and Kansas.

The steamboats which plied the Missouri River from St. Louis to Fort Benton, Mont., used millions of cords of wood that were cut along the banks. The average steamboat burned 25 cords of hardwood or 30 cords of cottonwood in 24 steaming hours. Regular steamboat traffic began in 1830 and continued without interruption until 1890. The heaviest traffic was between the years of 1858 and 1870 when as many as 30 to 40 boats would pass a given point in a day on the river in Montana.....

Thus the increase in settlement led to the natural decrease in the stands of growing timber, especially in the more thickly settled sections of the Plains. Here the settlers were far from supplies of coal, and the long cold winters necessitated continual fires. Far out on the Plains away from the streams this became a real problem, and at first "buffalo chips" were used and later "cow chips". At a still later date in years of poor crop production, cornstalks and hay were burned as well as plum brush and sand willow that occasionally grew in sheltered hollows. It was quite natural, therefore, that where extensive woods were noted by early explorers later pioneers found a meager supply or none at all.

## NEBRASKA RABBITS

We feel very much encouraged with results obtained from a letter mailed to cooperators from the State Director's office, taking up the advisability of rodent control on prospective windbreaks. We have received several letters and post cards in addition to a large number of personal requests for poison from the cooperators. A letter from a physician at Sioux City, Iowa says:

"I have a place called Spring Creek about six miles north and one mile east of Stuart, Nebraska, on which I have been trying to get trees started for a number of years, but find it very difficult with the rabbit pest, to accomplish much. I recently received a letter from the Forest Service relative to rodent control. I should like to have you supply my place with poison when a field officer makes a trip through that neighborhood."

One of our cooperators at Arcadia, Nebraska writes:

"I am writing this letter to ask you if you could be of any assistance to me in caring for my trees. I find that the rabbits are barking the Chinese elms, but do not seem to be bothering the other trees. They have damaged a large per cent of the elm and have killed a dozen or more. I have used all the poisoned corn and salt your representative gave me, but I am unable to control them. Do you have any more poisoned grain that I can use or anything that I could wrap these trees with?

"If you can furnish anything I can use, I will get a force of boys and protect these trees immediately. I have shot a good many of the rabbits and that has helped, but for your information, would say that I have spent \$11.45 in taking care of the shelterbelt of 10.31 acres. This was all for work and grasshopper and rabbit poison and does not include any fencing. I want to save every tree possible.

"Can you give me any information as to tree planting for 1938? Perhaps I can arrange for more trees to be planted this spring."

On January 19, Mr. C. Palenske, who has a shelterbelt on his place four miles southeast of Neligh, came in to the office asking for more rabbit poison to put out because the rabbits were doing considerable damage. Mr. Palenske said that in the Fall of 1936 he had 20 acres of mature corn completely eaten up by rabbits. Before he could get in to harvest the corn, a snow fell and it was some time before he could get into the field. During this interval the rabbits completely devastated this field of grain.

- Carroll F. Orendurff, U.S.B.S., Nebr

## LOOKS LIKE THE WHOLE PROJECT IS GOING TO BE "UNUSUAL" THIS YEAR

I read with great interest that the "unusual" has happened in Nebraska. Allow me to congratulate the Neligh District upon its success in completing negotiations for its allotted mileage. If Mr. Champagne has the same reaction that we have had in the Mitchell District, he will soon tire of the pleasure of saying, "Mr. Farmer, we're sorry we can't plant a strip for you this year as they are all taken." And if he reacts as we do here in the Mitchell District after some four months, the pleasure will be all gone and he will be regretting



that he is handicapped by the amount of stock he is allotted for his District.

Since the latter part of October we have been in the position Mr. Champagne mentions, but instead of being a pleasure, it has reached a stage of acute misery to this Shelterbelt Assistant - our larynx is all eroded away from saying "We're sorry."

- Elmer J. Lund, S. Dak.

### TREES ON THE PLAINS

The farmers of the plains are fooling themselves. The drouth now existing is a condition that has been repeating itself for ages. The results of the present drouth are more apparent than ever before because man has aided and abetted the elements by removing great areas of protective cover from the soil surface. Removal of sod permits ready run-off of precipitated moisture, opens the soil surface to rapid evaporation and permits soil blowing. A series of drier years such as we are now going through makes the plains almost unbearable for human habitation.

In connection with these problems many people have advocated turning the prairies back to grassland. This would be ideal from Mother Nature's viewpoint, but is not feasible from a practical standpoint. We who have made our homes here cannot all move out. The answer lies not in abandonment of our farms, but in the adoption of methods to fit the conditions.

It is at this point that we call to mind the motto of our forefathers "United we stand, divided we fall." When we apply new, or at least different, farming methods it must be cooperative effort on the part of all involved. Our fathers and grandfathers did not fight the Indians single-handed. All were banded together in a common cause. In the last two or three decades we have forsaken the spirit of combined effort that has been the backbone of Americanism, but once again, we as farming people, must unite in waging a war against the general apathy and indifference that has dogged our footsteps during the past years.

Going forward in agricultural methods is always a painful process, but to stand still is to go backward. Listing, contouring, basin listing, strip cropping, shelterbelt planting, terracing, all these and other soil conserving and moisture holding practices must be utilized to maintain the productivity of the plains.

Shelterbelts constitute but one step of the broad conservation program, but that one step is the basic control measure on which the others must be built. The keynote of true conservation must be permanence.

- Article by Kenneth W. Taylor  
in Kinsley (Kansas) Graphic.

### THE LITTLE OLD FORD IS STILL "RAMBLING RIGHT ALONG"

Oklahoma today submitted for numbering a contract for hire of a 1925 Ford roadster, Motor No. 10904188, for hauling of tractor crew, gas and oil, etc. at a rate of \$1.00 per day when in use, the owner to furnish greasing, tire expense, repairs, etc. If you can recall what a 1925 Ford roadster looked like, you may be able to make a PLAINS FORESTER story out of this.

- E. F. Hurren, R.O.

(Hell, feller, we "druv" one of 'em. - Ed.)

## ABOUT "BOSSING"

Writing in a recent article in the Kansas City Star, an author was commenting on untrained and young parents. Deploring a condition which exists where children are "bossed" so much by their parents, the author concludes with a significant statement, "The giving of directions without first waiting to see if such directions are needed, is typical of all untrained parents."

I often think of this article in regard to work on the Prairie States Forestry Project. Some of us deal with many assistants and it is our job to direct the energies of these people. But I wonder if we do not "boss" too much, or at least too quickly. Is it possible that sometimes we may give directions without first waiting to see if such directions are needed? If the directions are not needed, we may be doing an injustice to our assistants by robbing them of the opportunity to do original thinking and planning and thereby be denying them the satisfaction of carrying their full responsibility.

We cannot be an effective organization without responsible heads. Somebody has to do the thinking, but our organization will be stronger if every man does his full share. Some men fail because they do not expect full performance from their assistants. We ought to try to develop leadership and create opportunity for the development of every assistant. In doing this we should encourage initiative and perhaps thereby make it less necessary to give directions.

- T. Russell Reitz, Kans.

Referring to Reitz' discussion above, I wonder whether the problem does not go somewhat deeper than a consideration of when, and when not, to boss. The first thing, it seems to me, is to appraise the effectiveness, completeness and vitality of leadership. Perhaps the deficiencies of bossing, of command or the exercise of power or authority are apparent to all of us and certainly we know that human nature prefers a leading technique to a bossing technique. Most of us probably define the term "boss" as a foreman, a superintendent. But isn't bossing merely getting things done because somebody imposes his will upon the will of somebody else? If we agree it is, do we want to boss at all? Isn't it infinitely better to get things done because people themselves want to do them? And won't they attack the job at hand with interest and purpose when leadership is inspiring, vitalizing, stimulating? Leadership of the right kind will usually influence people to cooperate to get something done because they want to do it. I should say we need not concern ourselves so much over when to boss, as to study the need for bossing at all. Obviously I do not doubt the need, upon occasion, to place somewhat more emphasis upon the requirements or compliance with standards, but I do question the method, if it implies "bossing." And the mention of standards brings me to suggest if standard practices in methods and sequences of operation, standards of quantity and quality, have been well conceived and established, and understood by the individuals who will be expected to carry out the details, the justification or need for constant overhead interference, if you want to call it that, or order-giving (bossing) will be reduced.

- Wm. B. Ihlanfeldt, R.O.



#### SHOWING "OLD JULES" HOW TO GROW TREES

I believe that most of us have read or at least heard of the book "Old Jules," by Mari Sandoz. Old Jules Sandoz, as you know, lived in Sheridan County, near Rushville, Nebraska.

It so happens that the Alliance District takes in Sheridan County this year, and it also happens that we have plantings this spring only a short distance from Old Jules' first dugout and within a couple of miles of the first orchard planted by him, and not far from his orchard in the sand hills, which is mentioned in the book. We get some pretty interesting first-hand dope from the people around his old place, who really knew and had dealings with him. It might be interesting to know that Old Jules is buried in the cemetery just outside of the Alliance city limits.

They tell us that he was married four times, and that the only time he changed his clothes or took a bath was when he got married, and for this reason they know of four times that he cleaned up whether he needed to or not. We hear any number of stories about the old pioneer that are really worth one's time. Old Jules is well known to have been a lover of trees, and as I understand it, spent a good part of his life growing all kinds of them.

I suppose we will be swamped with "inspections" now that it is known that we have this historic spot "on tap."

- Sterling C. Neubauer, Nebr.

#### AS A "DETAILER" SEES THE SITUATION

Land negotiations in the Vernon District, compared to the other districts, appears to be at a standstill. However, I believe that in another year the Vernon District will be one of the best. Due to the amount of plantable land in this district, it is very desirable that we get the landowners behind the Project. This can only be done by picking good cooperators and good sites. Our new strips are scattered over the district in such a manner that most of the people at some time or another will get to see some of them. One thing that each cooperator has agreed to do is cultivate his strip in a good farmer-like manner. If good cultivation can be obtained we naturally will have better growth and better survival. This of course will make the Project more desirable in this district than it has been in the past.

Another thing that has been given considerable attention is ground preparation. In a great many cases, the farmers have been asked to plow their strips. On some farms this cannot be done because of the danger of blowing. However, where a farmer does some work on the strip before he gets the trees, it is only natural to believe that he will take more interest in them after they are planted. After a strip has been plowed and then planted it will be easier to cultivate. It will also look a lot better than if trees are planted on trashy ground.

If our cooperators will care for their trees and give them a decent chance, we feel that in another year there will be many landowners coming in to ask about the trees. If we can get them to talk about it, we will have a pretty good chance of getting a lot of them to sign up.

- Ralph G. Deede, Tex. (On detail from N. Dak.)



### GETTING THE COOPERATORS TO COOPERATE

On February 10 at Alexandria, South Dakota, a meeting of our 1937 and 1938 cooperators of Hanson County was called. This idea came from the fertile brain of Leo McManus who is handling the work in Hanson County under Lund's supervision.

Post cards were sent to the cooperators inviting them to the meeting and the response was far above expectations. A total of 64 cooperators responded. I personally attended this meeting, and the response and interest worked like a tonic on me.

The meeting was called for the purpose of discussing and considering strip cultivation by cooperators. The meeting started out that way but developed into not only cultivation, but ground preparation, fencing, species, more applications for better concentration, rabbit control and many other things. When it is realized that every person present was a cooperator, it is easy to see the amount of good accomplished in two and a half short hours as compared with personally contacting these people on their own farms.

The thing I liked about this meeting was the pride in their trees shown by the cooperators. Several of them wanted to talk at the same time. We presented our suggestions, and they told us how they accomplished the cultivation job. I believe the cooperators learned a lot but it is my honest opinion that we learned more.

I am convinced that such meetings will greatly help our cooperation problem. The lukewarm cooperator becomes encouraged and "pepped up" by the enthusiastic individuals. It was clearly apparent that many left the meeting with a "By golly, if he can do it I can" idea in his mind.

From a blunt selfish standpoint I look at the value of such meetings to us from a dollars and cents standpoint. The more cultivating, fencing and hand hoeing we can get our cooperators to do, the less the cost to us. I can think of no better way of instilling the desire to cooperate into our people than through such meetings. We are going to make a real effort to hold similar meetings of 1937 and 1938 cooperators in all areas where the concentration is dense enough to warrant it.

Since we are cooperating closely with the Extension Service, all such meetings will be called only through and in close cooperation with the local County Agent.

- A. L. Ford, S. Dak.

### ODD FACTS ABOUT KANSAS TREES

A cottonwood tree near Englewood, Kansas is over 31 feet in circumference and is one of the largest in Kansas.

Presidents Harrison, Taft and McKinley made campaign speeches under the big cottonwood tree on the State House grounds in Topeka.

One of the most historic trees in Kansas is still growing at Council Grove and is known as Council Oak. It marks the place where the treaty was signed August 10, 1825 guaranteeing the unmolested use of the Santa Fe Trail across the Great Plains.

Probably one of the largest red cedar trees in Kansas is growing near Westmoreland and is not less than 250 years of age. The lifetime of a red cedar post is exceeded in length only by the Osage orange in Kansas commonly called "hedge."

There are very few species of deciduous trees in this section that live to reach a greater age than that attained by the American elm. The species also seems to be able to withstand more adverse soil and climate conditions and neglect than any other of our deciduous trees.

Probably the oldest Chinese elm growing in Kansas was planted at Hays in 1912.

- C. Lyman Calahan, Kansas.

#### SOUTH DAKOTA COOPERATES WITH 4-H CLUBS

South Dakota has entered into a cooperative agreement with the State Extension Service whereunder the Forest Service will supply subgrade stock to 4-H tree clubs. The stock is to be lined out one year for use the following season.

The agreement provides that the Forest Service will transport the stock to suitable central points for lining out, and furnish assistance in training the clubs in lining out and caring for it. The Extension Service agrees to select or organize tree clubs in the areas which we recognize as being practicable for tree planting, and to see that the stock is used primarily for field shelterbelts and woodlots. None of it is to be disposed of, or used for ornamental purposes.

The Extension Service is very enthusiastic regarding the Project, and needless to say it represents an ideal method of disposing of stock not usable by us.

#### : NEBRASKA :

One of those Forest Service farewell-welcome parties was held at State Director Emerson's home on January 22, the occasion being in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Swim and Mr. and Mrs. Otto Bartos.

Mr. Swim was transferred on January 25 to the Executive Assistant position in Kansas. Mr. Bartos is taking over Mr. Swim's former duties in the Nebraska Unit.

The Swims will be missed in Lincoln and we wish them happy landings in Kansas.

Good-by Mr. and Mrs. Swim - Welcome Mr. and Mrs. Bartos.

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Although activities in connection with land negotiations were suspended after the district quota of 300 miles of strips was reached early in January, applications for shelterbelts are still being received by the Neligh Office at the rate of one to six a day. Apparently we can start negotiations for 1939 strips any time in this district.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Stapleton hunt club is now in full swing in the Arnold District. They have held a hunt practically every Sunday since the middle of December. This Club's work has been augmented by hunts at Pierce and Kearney. To the Pierce District goes the laurels for holding the first successful hunts of the season.

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Carroll F. Orendurff, Senior Biological Aide, assisted Clyde Licking, Game Management Agent of Omaha, in an estimate of the wild fowl in Morrill County on January 22 and 23.

: NORTH DAKOTA :

The farmers of Ransom County are proving enthusiastic regarding the possibility of obtaining shelterbelts on their farms. This county has not hitherto received trees. A small notice at the bottom of a "For Sale or Exchange List" recently sent out by County Agent Cook resulted in a request from them for three meetings. These were held January 27 and 28, at which 117 farmers were present and resulted in many applications. Mr. Cobb showed a series of 25 slides and explained the work of the Project. Already there have been received applications for two five-mile strips paralleling each other one-half mile apart. The farmers in this county raise the best corn in the State for grain, shipping much of it out, and seem to be in fair financial condition.

\*\*\*\*\*

The very mild winter weather continues with occasional snows, no winds, and drops in temperature now and then to 20° below zero. Highways are generally open, but the country roads are blocked, which precludes negotiations going far afield. Rabbits are doing considerable damage in local areas, especially ruining Chinese elm.

\*\*\*\*\*

Work on the Recreational Area at the Towner Nursery of 80 acres of woods, has been approved and work begun. Dead trees have been cut and prepared for firewood. Plans for fireplaces and estimates on steel plates and grates have been received, the work to be done this spring. Four latrines will be built under a county WPA project in cooperation with the State Board of Health. Fencing material will soon be purchased for the nursery area and the rest of the fence repaired. Last year over 2,000 people used these woods for picnics.

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The exhibit made last summer, showing a protected and an unprotected farm, has been repaired and improved. It is planned to exhibit this in the windows of the National Bank of Jamestown.

\*\*\*\*\*

The quota for 1938 plantings is practically complete, but the country roads prevent the negotiators from visiting the farmers for their final check up and signatures. A larger quota than is assigned North Dakota could easily be obtained if stock were available.

- F. E. Cobb

: KANSAS :

(Resolution adopted January 31, 1938 by the Edwards County (Kans.) Farm Bureau following a lecture at Kinsley by Mr. K. W. Taylor:)

"RESOLVED that we (The Edwards County Farm Bureau) express our appreciation to Mr. K. W. Taylor for his splendid illustrated lecture on the shelterbelt project and recommend that everyone who can find it at all possible to participate in the Project do so."



: OKLAHOMA :

Assistant Forester J. Walter Gosnell, who has been in charge of nursery work in Oklahoma since November 1935, was transferred to the Kansas Unit effective February 1, 1938.

On January 22, personnel and partners of the Oklahoma Unit surprised the Gosnells at their swanky new home. Impromptu games and just visiting gave flight to time for some three or four hours, after which the guests brought forth the vittles. As an expression of appreciation of our pleasant relations with the Gosnells, we presented them with a hostess serving tray set.

January 27 was Gozzy's birthday, and Ruth - that's Gozzy's wife - thought that since we had so thoroughly surprised them a few days before, she would try it on Gozzy again - and was it successful! A buffet luncheon was served to start the evening out right, and a fortune-telling gadget furnished most of the laughs for the evening's entertainment.

Good luck, folks, in your new location.

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We noticed in sending in additional data for personnel card records that Edwin C. Wilbur included a daughter in his list of dependents, listed thus: 1938-D. Further inquiry has established that Marlene Jean was born on January 16, 1938. Congratulations, Eddie.

- A. N. Butler

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Nurseryman Sam Byars has again demonstrated that his accomplishments are not limited to the production of first-class seedlings and outstanding jello recipes.

An unusual amount of racket emanating from the central seed storage house at Mangum the other day was investigated and found to be due to a new process developed by Byars for cleaning hackberry seed. He was using a concrete mixer charged with a generous quantity of sharp-edged rocks and hackberry seed. Byars explained that the regular seed macerator broke up too much of the seed. The mixer was doing an excellent job of depulping the berries without causing breakage, and was also giving the seed a light scarification. About 150 pounds of seed per hour were being depulped by this method.

- Elvin K. Ferrell

: TEXAS :

We noted with pleasure that the Vernon District which was formerly the Chillicothe District had the highest survival of any district in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Survival was set at 71.4 with greatest losses from small stock and weed competition. Since all old as well as new cooperators have pledged good cultivation this year, the loss from weed competition should be negligible. Excellent planting stock and judicious culling will eliminate the previous small stock problem. All in all the Vernon District should again lead the south half and maybe even both halves of the Project in percentage of survival.

- Thomas C. Croker, Jr.

: REGIONAL OFFICE :

It's always a pleasure to report on a party such as we had on February 12. A very nice dinner and an evening of dancing were enjoyed by most of the Regional and Nebraska Office members at the Chamber of Commerce. Because of the lateness of the hour and for other reasons, after-dinner speeches were waived, but it was all right because we heard most of the speeches next day anyway. We hope no one's dinner was spoiled by too heavy thinking on the subjects allotted for discussion.

(The party was completely ruined for this scribe when the speech-making was dispensed with. When we discovered that we were down on the program for an oration we practically neglected dinner in a frantic effort to corral a few appropriate thoughts. That was bad enough, but to have to spend the rest of the evening with all that perfervid oratory milling around inside us was plain torture. And another thing: The entertainment committee promised us faithfully that this would be one dinner where the inevitable green peas in little pastry doc-dads would be conspicuous (and they would be conspicuous if it happened) by their absence. And how was that promise fulfilled? You're doggone tootin' - it wasn't! By a practically superhuman effort we restrained our impulse to destroy our betrayers, but we want at this time to warn all prospective arrangers of future parties that our delicate sensibilities can be trifled with only up to a certain point. After that whirligigs begin to spin before our eyes and we seize the darn affair by the ears and hurl it into the next county. - Ed.)

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Malcolm R. Stuart, formerly of the Kansas Office, has taken over the duties of Purchasing Agent in the Regional Office. By the time he gets through with the property inventory he is now taking we presume all his conversation will be in terms of "1 shirt, white, with buttons," and "1 dog, small, with tail."

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Miss Helen Magnuson, formerly of the Division of Fiscal Control, is now employed in the Washington Office.

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As the result of extreme persuasion, Harold Peterson of Range Management explained to us why he seems immune to the bowling fever which has caught most of the members of the Regional Office. It seems that when he first took up the sport he was in such a fervor over it that he practiced the approach steps and coordination of leg and arm muscles at every opportunity. One ill-fated day, Friend Wife was away from home. While stepping off his routine in the kitchen, Pete felt the need of a substitute for a bowling ball, and for this purpose grasped the object nearest at hand, which happened to be a can of ivory paint. Everything was going fine until on count three the can slipped and traveled the length of the imaginary alley to the front end of the living room. This wouldn't be much of a story except that the lid came off the can and everything in the living room suddenly acquired a heavily mottled coat of ivory paint. In spite of most diligent and perspiring effort, Pete was unable to remove the effects before Mrs. Pete returned, and when she saw the damage.....(CENSORED)..... Pete says she has red hair and is lacking in none of the accompanying characteristics, and when she finished with him he could no longer work up any enthusiasm about bowling.

(P.S. If I should be missing from my usual post one of these mornings, I suggest you question first one Harold G. Peterson as to where he disposed of the body.)

- Lucille E. Clark, R.O.